

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to thank Examiner Burch for granting an interview and for her time spent in the interview.

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-23 were rejected as unpatentable over MESSAGE et al. FR 2 804 479 in view of LISOWSKY 5,044,784. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 22 and 23 are amended and recite that the means for continuously braking the rotating part comprises an annular member and flexible tabs that bear against an annular member to continuously brake the rotating part.

As set forth at the interview, inner part 4 of MESSAGE is used in conjunction with the rollers 2 to decrease friction, not as a means for continuously braking a rotating part during rotation thereof.

Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution of the application, it was agreed at the interview that the tabs of MESSAGE do not perform a braking function. Accordingly, the independent claims are amended as above to clarify that the tabs

are part of the means for braking to continuously brake the rotating part.

As pointed out at the interview, Figure 19 of MESSAGE shows the inner part 4 not being able to rotate with respect to the outer part 2 because the parts 2 and 4 are temporarily fastened to each other through friction facing 64. Thus, MESSAGE does not meet the limitation of a rotating part being braked during rotation of the rotating part.

As further pointed out, Figure 20 of MESSAGE shows part 4 being able to rotate with respect to part 2 because the friction facing 64 has been separated from the flange 62a. However, since friction member 64 is separated from flange 62a, these elements would not act as a brake and thus would not meet the limitation of a means for continuously braking the rotating part.

LISOWSKY is only cited for the teaching of plural flexible tabs. LISOWSKY does not teach or suggest a means for continuously braking a rotating part. Rather, as disclosed on column 3, lines 30-36, the tabs of LISOWSKY absorb energy in a radial direction.

The above-noted feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2-21 depend from claim 1 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 15 was rejected as unpatentable over MESSAGE et al. in view of LISOWSKY and further in view of LANDRIEVE FR 2 810 088. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

LANDRIEVE is only cited for the teaching of a seal protecting braking means. LANDRIEVE does not teach or suggest what is recited in claim 1. As set forth above, MESSAGE et al. in view of LISOWSKY does not teach or suggest what is recited in claim 1. Since claim 15 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention, the proposed combination of references would not have rendered obvious claim 15.

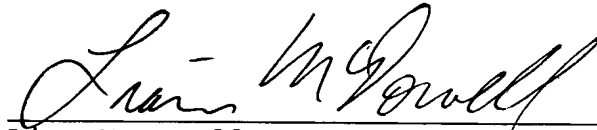
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

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